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BEYONCE'S PEPSI CHALLENGE {page 12}

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BOSTON
Tuesday, December 11, 2012

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ The governor is proposing that toll takers be eliminated beginning in 2015.

Patrick plans for electronic tolls, hundreds would lose jobs

Plan would cost about $100 million and would pay for itself in three years, officials said Daily commute times expected to greatly improve with project {page 02}

music

Life on Mars: Bruno beats writer's block

The singer on his 'Unorthodox' style and new album {page 15}

Parton unleashes her slogans {page 14}

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State jobs paying the toll with officials' automated booth plan

State leaders say plan to switch to automated tolls would improve commute ◗ Additional tolls on other roadways not ruled out ◗ More than 300 jobs expected to be elimated ◗ Official proposal expected in January

Automated toll collection is likely just down the road under a new plan being worked out by state leaders.

The plan to upgrade the tolls to an electronic or automated system on all currently tolled roads, bridges and tunnels would result in the reduction of more than 300 toll operator jobs, officials said yesterday.

"We've been looking at it for some time, and I think we have a pretty good plan coming together," Gov. Deval Patrick told reporters at Logan Airport. "And I think it's going to save us some money and above all make the commute and the use of the Pike more convenient."

When asked about tolls on other roadways, Patrick would not rule out the possibility in the future, but said it's not part of the current toll automation plan.

"It's one of the things we've thought about and indeed that many, many people have thought about. We haven't quite come to close on that," Patrick said of additional toll roads.

When asked further about tolls along the border of the state, Patrick again said that plan has been thought about.

"I've thought about and we have talked about a number of those strategies. There are arguments on all sides of them. We are trying to come to rest on a plan that we phase in over a number of years. You're going to have to wait a few weeks until we talk about all of them," Patrick said.

Patrick is expected to deliver a plan to the Legislature next month that address gaps in public transportation revenues.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ This scenario could be a thing of the past as early as 2015.

55
Officials said the electronic toll collection would improve commutes and allow people to travel through tolls at greater speeds, such as 55 mph.

A lot of jobs at stake

Department of Transportation Secretary Richard Davey said there are about 410 current full-time and part-time toll workers and that up to 80 or 90 percent of them could be eliminated. The switch is not likely to happen until about 2015 when a contract with toll workers expires.

- "Toll collectors have done nothing wrong, it's just that technology has caught up with them," Davey said.
- Messages left for union representatives for the Massachusetts Turnpike employees were not immediately returned.

Cost containment

The plan would cost about $100 million and would pay for itself in about three years, state officials said.

Because toll money can only be used on toll roads, MassDOT Secretary Richard Davey said the project funds would not divert money away from other transit projects. Davey said the state takes in about $300 million a year from the tolls.

Quoted

"We would pay for it with the tolls. We can only use toll revenue for the toll roads, so it's not as if we can take toll money and give it to cities and towns. I can't even give it to a regional transit authority. It has to stay on the toll roads, so we would use toll revenue to pay for it." DAVEY

By the numbers

1,773

City officials yesterday released a video illustrating how 1,193 students travel a total of 1,773 miles each morning from Bowdoin/Geneva to 64 different schools in areas as far as Hyde Park and South Boston. The routes equal the distance from Boston to Cheyenne, Wyoming. The video is meant to demonstrate the need to overhaul Boston Public Schools' student assignment plan. METRO

Today's local tweet

"I love cab rides. The drivers are always so sketchy and it's like a mystery...will I live or will I die #citylife #boston"

@RYCOLBURN, ON THE THRILL OF SPEEDING THROUGH HUB STREETS

In the news

DeLeo examining sex offender laws

MASSACHUSETTS. House Speaker Robert DeLeo said yesterday he is reviewing the state's sex offender laws and is considering stalled legislation supported by Attorney General Martha Coakley that would make the identities of the lowest level sex offenders public.

In the aftermath of allegations against a Wakefield man accused of raping and sexually abusing more than a dozen children in his wife's day care business, DeLeo said he has not made a definitive decision about whether information on Level 1 sex offenders should be available to the public.

▶ DeLeo

DeLeo said he wants lawmakers to look at the issue, which has failed to gain traction during this two-year session, as soon as the new session begins in January. SHNS

Jury continues to weigh Cahill's fate

MASSACHUSETTS. Defense attorneys and prosecutors in the trial of former Treasurer Tim Cahill gathered around 11 a.m. yesterday to privately meet with Judge Christine Roach about a legal question posed by the jury. Cahill and co-defendant Scott Campbell have been charged with allegedly directing the Massachusetts State Lottery to run self-promotional ads at the behest of Cahill's 2010 gubernatorial campaign.

The legal question was the first that the jury has asked the judge and represents the only clue so far as to how the deliberations are proceeding. Following a roughly 45-minute sidebar conference out of earshot of court attendees, attorneys from both sides declined to comment on the nature of the question. The jury finished for the day without a verdict. SHNS

Jury deliberations have to restart in Mattapan trial

BOSTON. A juror weighing the fate of a man accused of killing four people was dismissed by a judge yesterday because he violated jury rules.

The juror violated his oath and was replaced with an alternate juror in the murder trial of Dwayne Moore, according to the Suffolk district attorney's office.

Deliberations will have to restart with the new juror.

The jury had only deliberated for a little more than one day.

The dismissed juror had done ballistics research on his own online and shared it with other jurors, according to the Globe.

Moore is accused of killing four people including a 2-year-old and his mother in Mattapan in 2010. METRO

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In the news

T opens bus doors for yearly toy drive

BOSTON. The MBTA opened one of its buses' doors yesterday for the 12th annual Fill-A-Bus with Toys drive on the plaza outside South Station.

Charlie, the T's mascot, helped stock the bus with new, unwrapped toys. Last year the T collected about 1,000 new, unwrapped toys, according to a T spokesman.

This year's donations will benefit Action for Boston Community Development, Freedom House, The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and The Yawkey Boys & Girls Club of Boston. METRO

Mental health evaluation for bus assault suspect

BOSTON. A man was ordered to undergo a mental health evaluation after he allegedly stabbed another MBTA bus passenger in Roslindale Sunday afternoon.

Jean Gasner, 49, who has no fixed address, was arraigned yesterday for attacking a 24-year-old man on a Rt. 34 bus.

He was held without bail on charges of armed assault with intent to murder and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and ordered to undergo a 20-day mental health evaluation. METRO

Harvard dean is named new Smith College president

CAMBRIDGE. The dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education has been named as the next president of Smith College.

Kathleen McCartney will take over at the Northampton female college in July. METRO

Funding questions remain on Green Line extension project

Groundbreaking today in Somerville on Phase 1 of construction Secretary: No money for other phases

State transportation officials today will break ground on the first phase of the long-awaited MBTA Green Line extension in Somerville.

The project will stretch existing Green Line service from a relocated Lechmere Station in East Cambridge to Union Square in Somerville and College Avenue in Medford.

State Transportation Secretary Richard Davey said yesterday that he is "confident" about the first portion of the project, but that he is "not sure" how further progress will be funded.

"Well, certainly, with Phase 1 we're very confident. Phase 1 to go to Union Square and then north to Washington Street. We do have the funds in our capital bond program to pay for Phase 1. I've been clear that if we don't solve our transportation finance crisis I'm not sure how we're going to pay for it further north," Davey said.

How far will the Green Line extension reach?

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METROX

The first phase will cost nearly $13 million, just a fraction of the project's total cost, which will come in at about $1 billion. There are a total of four phases, and Phase 1 is expected to finish in January 2015.

"If we're able to solve the T's fiscal crisis, in fact our entire transportation crisis, we're very bullish that the federal government will contribute upward of a half a billion dollars to the Green Line extension. It's not an insignificant number," Davey said.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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Breaking down the first phase

- There will be reconstruction of the Harvard Street railroad bridge in Medford and the Medford Street railroad bridge in Somerville.
- Both bridges will be rebuilt to accommodate the existing Commuter Rail and Green Line tracks.
- There will also be a demolition of an MBTA-owned building at 21 Water St. in East Cambridge. It will be razed to clear the path for the eventual extension of the tracks from Lechmere Station.
- **Benefits:** Transportation officials say they hope the project will improve public transit service by providing travelers with shorter trips and reducing the amount of cars on local roads.

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In the news

Three college heads make $1M+

MASSACHUSETTS. Three Boston-area college presidents were paid more than $1 million, and other school leaders come close to that mark.

The Chronicle of Higher Education released yesterday its annual compilation of executive compensation at private colleges. The data is for the year 2010.

The compensation packages for the presidents of Boston University (Robert Brown, $1.14 million), Northeastern University (Joseph Aoun, $1.06 million) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Susan Hockfield, $1 million) topped the list for Massachusetts schools.

Harvard President Drew Faust was fourth on the Massachusetts private colleges list with a total compensation of $875,331. METRO

Menorah. Lighting

▶ From left, Speaker Robert DeLeo, Rabbi Rachmiel Liberman of Congregation Lubavitch Synagogue, Senate President Therese Murray and Gov. Deval Patrick joined together yesterday evening to light the Massachusetts State House menorah in celebration of Hanukkah.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

State House ceremony marks Hanukkah

The start of Hanukkah was marked with the lighting of an 18-foot menorah at the State House yesterday. The eight-day Jewish Festival of Lights began Saturday at sunset. Gov. Deval Patrick and other state officials helped Rabbi Rachmiel Liberman of Congregation Lubavitch Synagogue to light the menorah using a mechanical lift. METRO

Gun, bullets found on teen at high school

A 16-year-old boy was arrested yesterday at the Jeremiah Burke High School in Dorchester for allegedly having a gun and "several rounds of ammunition" in his school bag, according to Boston Police.

The student, who was not identified, was arrested around 8:30 a.m. after Roxbury police responded to a call for a firearm found on a male student at the school, which is located on Washington Street.

Police did not say whether the student intended to use the gun at school.

He was arraigned yesterday for unlawful possession of a firearm and unlawful possession of ammunition, according to Suffolk County District Attorney spokesman Jake Wark.

If he posts $1,000 bail he must remain at home and wear a GPS tracking device, Wark said. He is due back in court on Dec. 17.

Police statement

"On arrival, officers spoke to members of the Boston School Police who stated an unloaded firearm was found on a student during an administrative search relative to a stolen cell phone," Boston Police said. "The unloaded firearm was found in the student's school bag. Additionally, a search of the student enabled officers to see and seize several rounds of ammunition."

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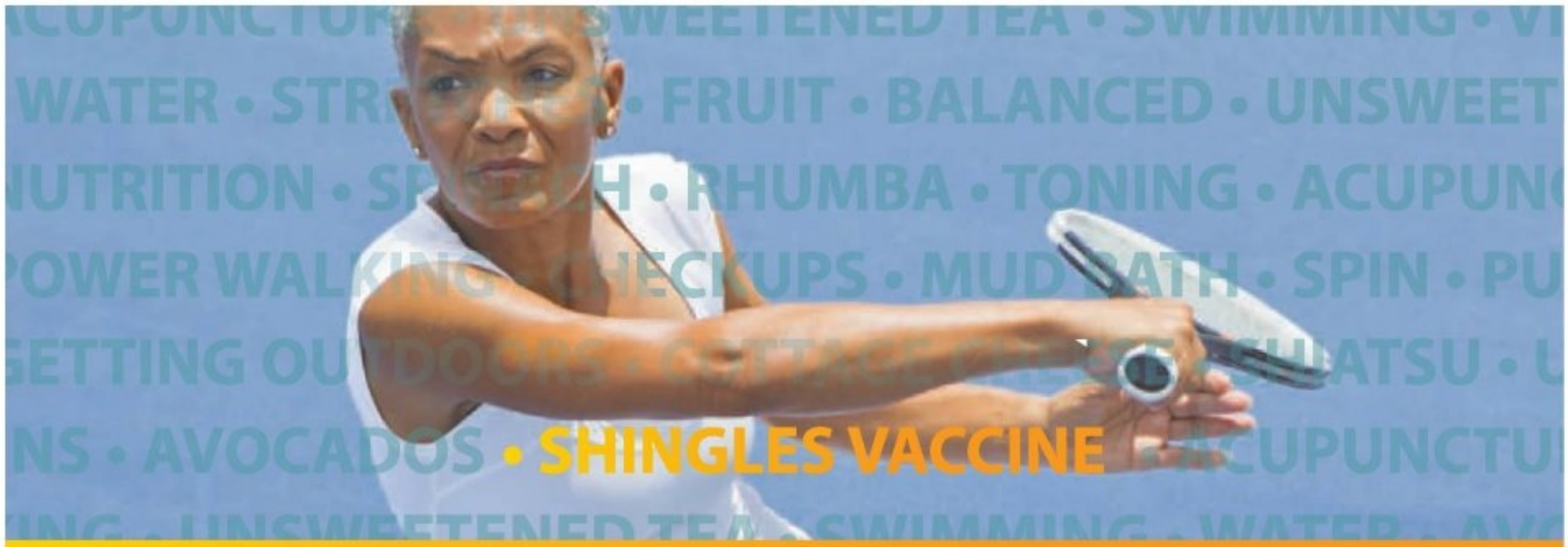

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ZOSTAVAX® (Zoster Vaccine Live) is available at certain pharmacies and medical practices. Talk to your health care professional or visit FIND*ZOSTAVAX*.com for more information.

Now's the time to help prevent Shingles with ZOSTAVAX.

ZOSTAVAX is a vaccine that helps prevent Shingles in adults 50 years of age or older. Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. The virus stays in your body and can resurface at any time as Shingles—a painful, blistering rash. And no matter how healthy you feel, your risk increases as you get older.

The sooner you get vaccinated with ZOSTAVAX, the better your chances of protecting yourself from Shingles. In fact, the ACIP* of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommends that appropriate adults 60 years of age and older get vaccinated to help prevent Shingles.

Talk to your health care professional to see if ZOSTAVAX is right for you.

ZOSTAVAX is given as a single shot. ZOSTAVAX cannot be used to treat Shingles, or the nerve pain that may follow Shingles, once you have it. For more information, visit ZOSTAVAX.com or call 1-877-9 SHINGLES.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please read the Patient Information on the adjacent page for more detailed information.

*ACIP=Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

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ABOUT ZOSTAVAX

ZOSTAVAX is a vaccine that is used for adults 50 years of age or older to prevent Shingles (also known as zoster).

Important Safety Information

- ZOSTAVAX does not protect everyone, so some people who get the vaccine may still get Shingles.
- You should not get ZOSTAVAX if you are allergic to any of its ingredients, including gelatin or neomycin, have a weakened immune system, take high doses of steroids, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. You should not get ZOSTAVAX to prevent chickenpox.
- Talk to your health care professional if you plan to get ZOSTAVAX at the same time as PNEUMOVAX®23 (Pneumococcal Vaccine Polyvalent) because it may be better to get these vaccines at least 4 weeks apart.
- Possible side effects include redness, pain, itching, swelling, hard lump, warmth, or bruising at the injection site, as well as headache.
- ZOSTAVAX contains a weakened chickenpox virus. Tell your health care professional if you will be in close contact with newborn infants, someone who may be pregnant and has not had chickenpox or been vaccinated against chickenpox, or someone who has problems with their immune system. Your health care professional can tell you what situations you may need to avoid.

Before you get Shingles, get vaccinated.

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You should read this summary of information about ZOSTAVAX before you are vaccinated. If you have any questions about ZOSTAVAX after reading this page, you should ask your health care provider. This information does not take the place of talking about ZOSTAVAX with your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider. Only your health care provider can decide if ZOSTAVAX is right for you.

What is ZOSTAVAX and how does it work?
ZOSTAVAX is a vaccine that is used for adults 50 years of age or older to prevent shingles (also known as zoster).

ZOSTAVAX contains a weakened chickenpox virus (varicella-zoster virus).

ZOSTAVAX works by helping your immune system protect you from getting shingles.

If you do get shingles even though you have been vaccinated, ZOSTAVAX may help prevent the nerve pain that can follow shingles in some people. ZOSTAVAX does not protect everyone, so some people who get the vaccine may still get shingles.

ZOSTAVAX cannot be used to treat shingles, or the nerve pain that may follow shingles, once you have it.

What do I need to know about shingles and the virus that causes it?
Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. Once you have had chickenpox, the virus can stay in your nervous system for many years. For reasons that are not fully understood, the virus may become active again and give you shingles. Age and problems with the immune system may increase your chances of getting shingles.

Shingles is a rash that is usually on one side of the body. The rash begins as a cluster of small red spots that often blister. The rash can be painful. Shingles rashes usually last up to 30 days and, for most people, the pain associated with the rash lessens as it heals.

Who should not get ZOSTAVAX?
You should not get ZOSTAVAX if you:
- are allergic to any of its ingredients.
- are allergic to gelatin or neomycin.
- have a weakened immune system (for example, an immune deficiency, leukemia, lymphoma, or HIV/AIDS).
- take high doses of steroids by injection or by mouth.
- are pregnant or plan to get pregnant.

You should not get ZOSTAVAX to prevent chickenpox.

Children should not get ZOSTAVAX.

How is ZOSTAVAX given?
ZOSTAVAX is given as a single dose by injection under the skin.

What should I tell my health care provider before I get ZOSTAVAX?
You should tell your health care provider if you:
- have or have had any medical problems.
- take any medicines, including non-prescription medicines, and dietary supplements.
- have any allergies, including allergies to neomycin or gelatin.
- had an allergic reaction to another vaccine.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- are breast-feeding.

Tell your health care provider if you expect to be in close contact (including household contact) with newborn infants, someone who may be pregnant and has not had chickenpox or been vaccinated against chickenpox, or someone who has problems with their immune system. Your health care provider can tell you what situations you may need to avoid.

Can I get ZOSTAVAX with other vaccines?
Talk to your health care provider if you plan to get ZOSTAVAX at the same time as the flu vaccine.

Talk to your health care provider if you plan to get ZOSTAVAX at the same time as PNEUMOVAX®23 (Pneumococcal Vaccine Polyvalent) because it may be better to get these vaccines at least 4 weeks apart.

What are the possible side effects of ZOSTAVAX?
The most common side effects that people in the clinical studies reported after receiving the vaccine include:
- redness, pain, itching, swelling, hard lump, warmth, or bruising where the shot was given.
- headache

The following additional side effects have been reported with ZOSTAVAX:
- allergic reactions, which may be serious and may include difficulty in breathing or swallowing. If you have an allergic reaction, call your doctor right away.
- chickenpox
- fever
- hives at the injection site
- joint pain
- muscle pain
- nausea
- rash
- rash at the injection site
- swollen glands near the injection site (that may last a few days to a few weeks)

Tell your health care provider if you have any new or unusual symptoms after you receive ZOSTAVAX. For a complete list of side effects, ask your health care provider.

Call 1-800-986-8999 to report any exposure to ZOSTAVAX during pregnancy.

What are the ingredients of ZOSTAVAX?
Active Ingredient: a weakened form of the varicella-zoster virus.

Inactive Ingredients: sucrose, hydrolyzed porcine gelatin, sodium chloride, monosodium L-glutamate, sodium phosphate dibasic, potassium phosphate monobasic, potassium chloride.

This page summarizes important information about ZOSTAVAX. If you would like more information, talk to your health care provider or visit the website at www.ZOSTAVAX.com or call 1-800-622-4477.

Rx only

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News in brief

▶ 2009 inauguration

GETTY IMAGES

Obama accepts corporate funding for inauguration

WASHINGTON. President Barack Obama's inauguration committee is accepting corporate donations to help fund the parade and other events associated with his Jan. 21 inauguration after tapped-out Democratic donors spent huge sums helping him get elected.

The move is a shift for Obama, who did not accept corporate donations for his first inauguration in January 2009.

Aides from the Presidential Inaugural Committee confirmed it would accept money from "individual and institutional" givers to help cover the cost of public events not paid for by taxpayers. **REUTERS**

Safe havens in Pakistan prevent insurgents' defeat

WASHINGTON. Safe havens in northwest Pakistan prevent U.S., allied and Afghanistan forces from dealing a "decisive defeat" to insurgents, according to the Pentagon's latest assessment.

Pakistan-based sanctuary for insurgents such as the Haqqani network, as well as the financial and operational support insurgents receive from various sources, keep security volatile along Afghanistan's eastern border, the Defense Department said today in a semi-annual report required by Congress.

The report provides an unclassified snapshot of the war in Afghanistan as the Obama administration prepares to assess how many of the remaining 66,000 troops will be withdrawn next year. **BLOOMBERG**

Fiscal cliff talks go on as neither side gives ground

The White House and House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner's office held more negotiations yesterday on ways to break the "fiscal cliff" stalemate, but Republicans said they were still seeking a new offer from President Obama.

With time running out to avert the onset of tax increases and spending cuts that kicks in on Jan. 1 unless Congress acts, the pace of talks has begun to pick up, although neither side gave ground in public.

Boehner met with Obama on Sunday, raising hopes of progress in talks to avert the fiscal cliff that economists say could send the fragile economy back into a recession.

A spokesman for Obama said the lines of communication were still open with Republicans in the cliff talks and Obama believed the two sides could reach a deal.

"The president does believe that we can reach an agreement," spokesman Jay Carney told reporters traveling with the president in Michigan. Neither side offered details of Sunday's face-to-face talks.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Boehner

Markets ease

Financial markets have calmed recently after a series of wild swings, when nearly every utterance from a politician about the looming budget crisis caused volatility in stock prices.

"We, broadly speaking, continue to engage in this process with important players and stakeholders," Carney said.

Boehner spokesman Michael Steel said Republicans were still waiting for the president to identify the spending cuts he will make in the deficit-reduction negotiations. "The Republican offer made last week remains the Republican offer," Steel said. The two sides were holding staff-level talks yesterday, he said.

Boehner and the House leadership submitted their terms for a deal to the White House last week, after Obama presented his opening proposal. Both sides seek to cut budget deficits by more than $4 trillion over the next 10 years but differ drastically on how to get there.

Obama wants to let tax rates rise for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans, while Boehner and Republicans oppose letting any rates increase. **REUTERS**

Metro Magic toy drive

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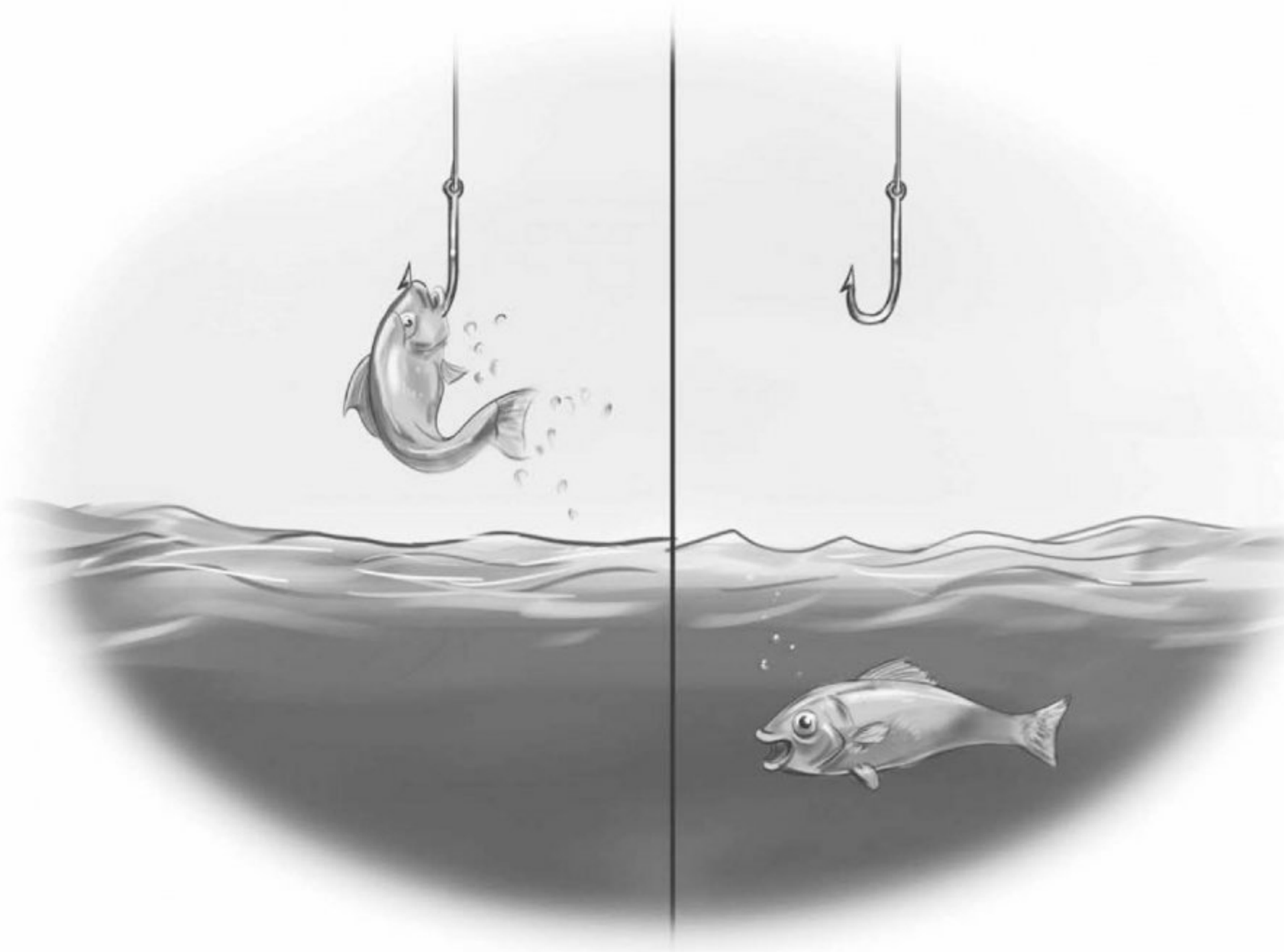

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AdoptUsKids

McD's gathers in the gold; Gmail gets glitchy

McRevenue

▶ The golden arches once again live up to their color.

SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

McDonald's sales helped by $1 meals

McDonald's Corp.'s sales at established restaurants rose more than expected in November as a renewed emphasis on low-priced menu options, such as $1 Sausage McMuffins and coffee, helped the company bounce back from a rare decline in October, the company said yesterday. Sales at restaurants open at least 13 months were up 2.4 percent in November, easily topping the tepid 0.17 percent increase expected by analysts polled by Consensus Metrix. Still, analysts said it was too early to say that the world's biggest restaurant chain, known for its french fries and Big Macs, had regained its strong lead over rival fast-food chains. "One month does not a trend make ... but it's a nice sign to see them rebound after a horrible October," ITG Investment Research analyst Steve West said. In October, McDonald's posted its first monthly drop in the closely watched performance measure in nine years. **REUTERS**

First in (bumper) fight

NC barred from 'pro life' license plates

A federal judge has permanently blocked North Carolina from issuing an anti-abortion specialty license plate, ruling that offering plates with a "Choose Life" slogan without an alternative supporting abortion rights is unconstitutional. The lack of a plate promoting reproductive freedom in the state constitutes "viewpoint discrimination in violation of the First Amendment," Senior U.S. District Judge James C. Fox said.

The judge had granted a preliminary injunction sought by the ACLU of North Carolina. **REUTERS**

Hospitalized hero

Mandela to undergo more hospital tests

Nelson Mandela, the 94-year-old former South African president and revered anti-apartheid leader, is set to undergo more hospital tests after having a good rest on his second night in the facility, the government said.

A statement from the office of President Jacob Zuma gave no details other than to say, "President Mandela had a good night's rest" and was "in good hands." It also thanked members of the public for their messages of support. **REUTERS**

New year, new bombs

Israel: Iran's nukes must be dealt with

Iran is getting ever closer to being able to build a nuclear bomb and the problem will have to be confronted in 2013, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

Israeli officials would like the United States to take the lead in a military assault on Iran's nuclear sites, but say in private they would go it alone if necessary, describing a nuclear-armed Iran as an existential threat to the Jewish state.

Speaking to foreign journalists, Netanyahu said Israel was sticking to the red line he laid down in September. **REUTERS**

1 Iran could have enriched enough uranium to produce just one bomb in 2013.

Google glitch

Gmail hit with technical problems

Several Google Inc. Web products, including the popular Gmail service, appeared to go dark for users on several continents yesterday.

Google confirmed that "service disruptions" had affected Gmail and Google Drive, its online storage service. The two products are part of Google's Apps suite. By 1:10 p.m., Google's Apps Dashboard monitoring service reported that Gmail and Drive service had resumed. The company did not specify how many users were affected, but the outage prompted widespread complaints on social media on both coasts in the U.S. and other major markets. **REUTERS**

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CYNTHIA M. REED

Bucking the trend: Metro leads the way

▶ Tony Metcalf, Metro US editor-in-chief, added: "We are thrilled that Metro US's hard work and dedication is paying off. Beyond distributing copies at the right time and place, our mission is to engage young, affluent people in a meaningful way that fits their busy urban life."

There's a common perception that newspapers are dying at the hands of the Internet and the cell phone.

Yet newly released figures about the readership of Metro newspapers in the United States show that the doom-mongers have got it badly wrong.

While America's big paid-for newspapers are struggling badly, Metro, the No. 1 free daily in the country, goes from strength to strength.

The latest readership survey, conducted by Scarborough Research, shows that Metro is the most-read newspaper among employed adults ages 18 to 49 who work or live in Manhattan, Boston Proper and Philadelphia City Center.

The figures also show increases for Metro US in all three cities in which the paper is published. Metro US readership increased by 16 percent year over year to an all-time record of 1.3 million daily readers and 2.5 million weekly readers in three of the top media markets in the United States.

Metro launched in Philadelphia in 1999 and debuted in Boston in 2001. The New York edition followed in 2004. Despite industry-wide declines in advertising and readership, Metro continues to gain momentum.

So what drives the success?

We distribute our papers at the most relevant times and places. We put the papers into the hands of mobile, on-the-go readers who are a highly desirable target market for the advertisers that partner with Metro.

Only Metro has the sheer editorial power — we are part of a global network of 100 newspapers — to persuade superstars like Lady Gaga, Sir Richard Branson or Karl Lagerfeld to become our guest editor-in-chief for the day.

And we provide creative, thoughtful, value-for-money solutions to advertisers, old and new.

"These smashing results further prove the success of Metro's free daily newspaper model. What was once an implausible idea is now the future of newspaper publishing" said Yggers Mortensen, Metro US publisher and CEO.

Metro readership

1,290,591
Daily readers ages 18+

2,468,778
Weekly readers ages 18+

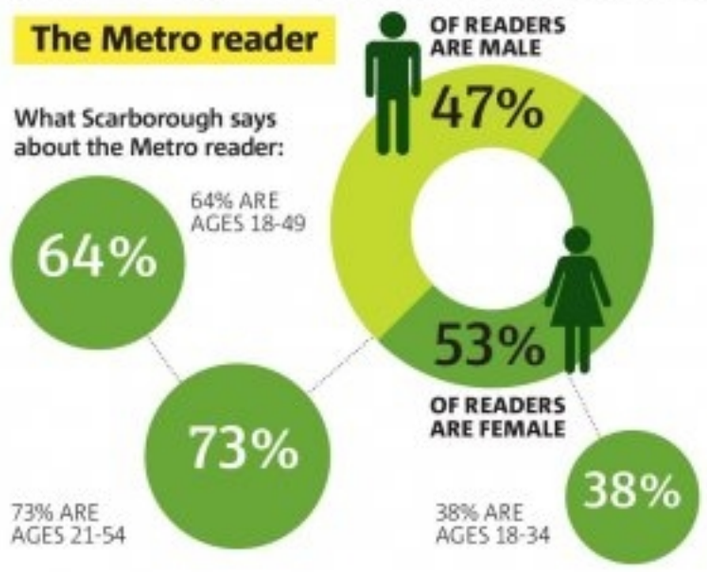
16%
Daily readership increase in the past year

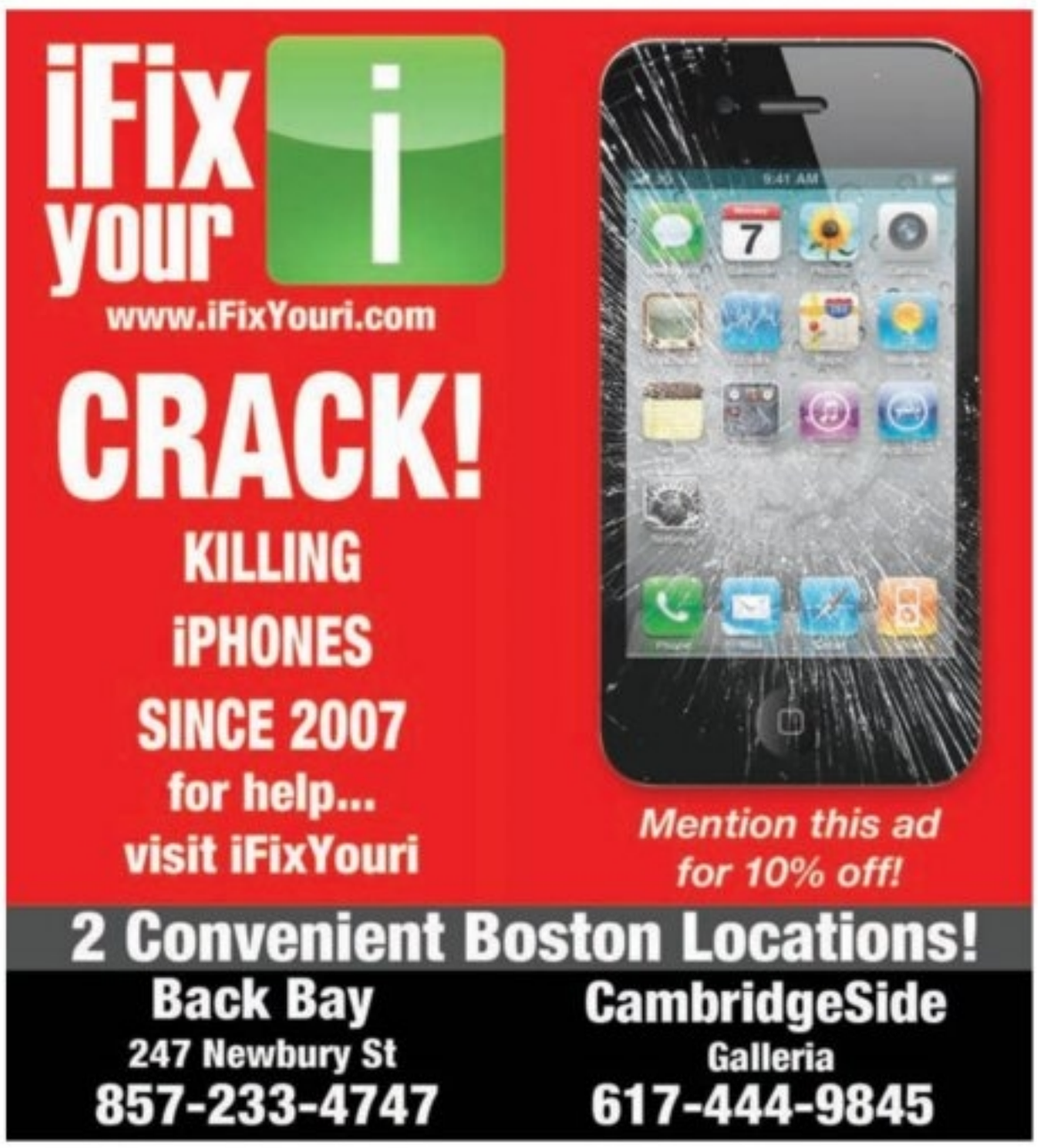
Reader job stats

- **74%** are employed
- **59%** are full-timers
- **47%** are white-collared
- **32%** are managers/professionals
- **59%** went to college
- **38%** are parents

The Metro reader

What Scarborough says about the Metro reader:





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myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

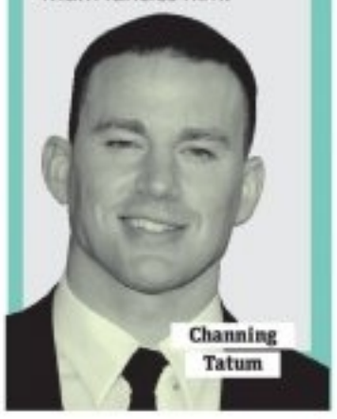
▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Pink is hoping for gladder tidings this season, Channing Tatum is getting very specific with his praise and Russell Brand is feeling adventurous.

@Pink
I'm wishing everyone a little more tolerance this year in their stocking. For the new year. For Chanukah. Whatever you celebrate. After reading some of your responses to my happy Chanukah last night, I feel tolerance is something a lot of you need.

@channingtatum
Big thanks to the kids in Ms. Ochoa's 5th grade class at Poway's Valley Elementary! Great job on your project!

@rustyrockets
Anyone who does the (traumatic) Sydney Bridge Climb today tell "Bernie" the guide my Mum fancies him.



Channing Tatum

Beyonce: Now proudly brought you to by Pepsi

Pepsi is throwing a ton of cash — $50 million, to be exact — at **Beyonce** to make the singer the "face" of the company. Here's what the deal includes:

- Beyonce's face will be found on limited-edition cans starting in March.
- The singer will be featured in TV commercials, the biggest of which will debut after her Super Bowl XLVII halftime performance on Feb. 3. She will also appear in the usual media: billboards, magazine advertisements, etc.
- Pepsi will sponsor her tour.
- And here's where the deal might become an interesting collaboration: Pepsi will fund Beyonce's creative whims, which might not have explicit connection to the soda giant, per The New York Times. This might mean live events, videos, "a cool photo shoot" or anything that Beyonce might think of, said Lee Anne Callahan-Longo, the general manager of Parkwood Entertainment, Beyonce's company.

Is anyone else surprised by this collaboration? I know it's hard to say no to $50 million, but soda is bad, y'all. Isn't she worried about having to help shill something that is known to cause widespread health problems? Or am I just being all **Michael Bloomberg** about this? And, even looking past lending her image to a can of sugar, isn't Pepsi the No. 2 can of sugar? Leave Pepsi to **Kelly Rowland**, girl! You're a Coca-Cola star all the way.

"Pepsi embraces creativity and understands that artists evolve. As a businesswoman, this allows me to work with a lifestyle brand with no compromise and without sacrificing my creativity."
BEYONCE

Beyonce: now shilling sugar

Moore is off the hook in Miami

Demi Moore is hitting Miami in a big way. The actress has been spotted around town multiple nights in a row at nightclubs and hot spots, living it up until the wee hours, according to Us Weekly. "The whole table was drinking," a source says after seeing Moore's gang kick off a recent night at club FDR. "She sat between two guys and was laughing, having fun." The group then hit up several other clubs before arriving at Rec Room around 4 a.m. "They were all starving," the source says. "They sat in the club eating burgers and fries and drinking beer until the club closed and the lights went on." While Moore's partying has led to problems before, including hospitalization and a stint in rehab earlier this year, a friend insists everything's fine, telling the magazine that the actress is "in a good place" and "open to experiencing new things this year."

▶ One of Demi Moore's weekend party buddies included Lenny Kravitz.

Talking points

One Direction is cool with Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift's latest romance with **Harry Styles** gets the seal of approval from Styles' One Direction bandmate **Louis Tomlinson**, according to Us Weekly. "I'm happy they're good friends," Tomlinson coyly tells the magazine. "She's a really lovely girl." Given the amount of time Swift has spent recently with Styles — and the rest of the band, by extension — he's certainly had a chance to get a good impression.

Australian DJs 'shattered, gutted'

The Australian DJs whose prank call led to the apparent suicide of one of **Kate Middleton**'s nurses are speaking out for the first time, appearing on Australia's "Today Tonight" just hours before it was announced their radio show has been canceled. "I'm shattered, gutted, heartbroken," **Michael Christian** says of the the fallout from his and co-host **Mel Greig**'s prank. "I had the idea. It was just a simple harmless phone call. It was going to go on for 30 seconds. We were going to get hung up on." But it went further than that, leading to the death of **Jacintha Saldanha**, the nurse who had taken the call. "The first thing I asked was, 'Was she a mother?'" says Greig. "If we played any involvement in her death, then we're very sorry. We couldn't foresee what was going to happen."

Doherty calls 911 after suicidal fan reaches out

Celebrities often say they care about their fans, but **Shannen Doherty** means it. The former "Beverly Hills 90210" star called 911 from L.A. recently to get help for a Twitter follower in New Jersey whom Doherty believed was suicidal, according to TMZ. "This is going to sound incredibly strange," Doherty says on the 911 call, obtained by the website. "My name is Shannen Doherty and I'm an actress, and there is a girl who is threatening to shoot herself." The unidentified 27-year-old woman had sent Doherty messages on Twitter claiming she would kill herself if Doherty didn't call her on the phone. "My security guys told me to block her because she's aggressive and does very erratic things," Doherty says on the emergency call. "I felt bad for her, to be honest."

▶ Doherty

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Tulle dresses are festive fun for the holidays

1: Skye Edwards rocked black tulle Friday on the Italian version of "The X Factor" in Milan.

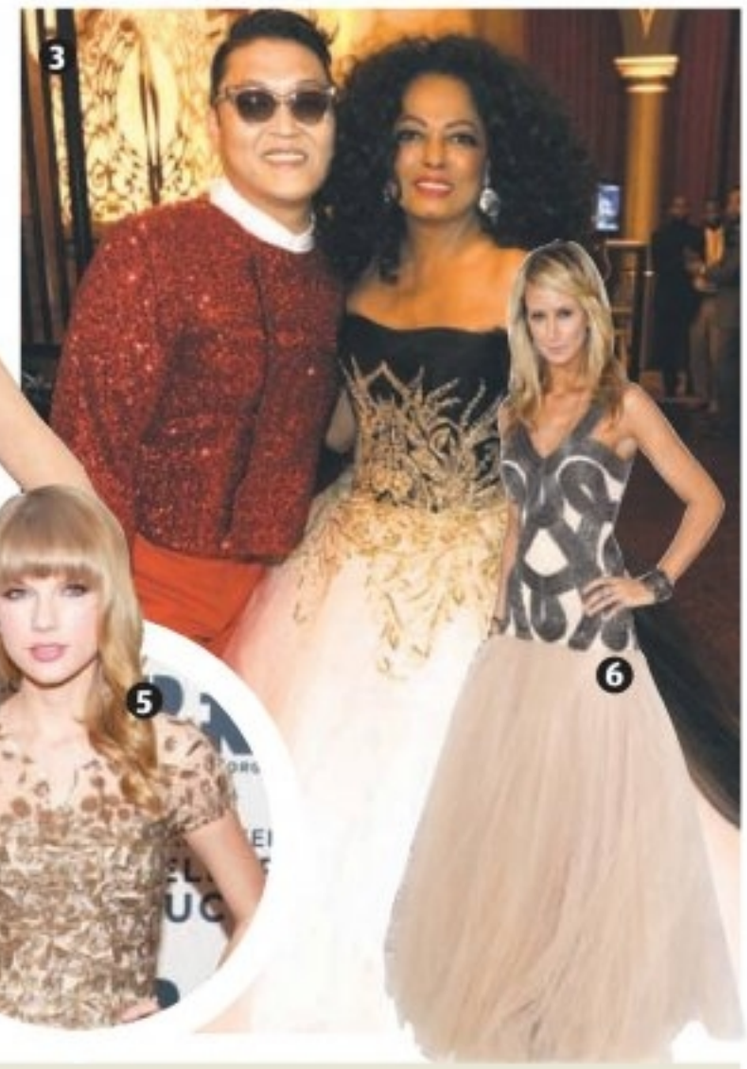
2: Supermodel **Elle MacPherson** dazzled on the red carpet at the Sun Military Awards at the Imperial War Museum on Thursday in London.

3: Diana Ross (seen here with **Psy**) wore a custom-designed tulle gown to perform at TNT's "Christmas in Washington" special on Sunday in D.C.

4: Anna Kendrick wore a silver and blue Georges Chakra cocktail dress Dec. 2 at the Trevor Project's 2012 "Trevor Live" event honoring **Katy Perry** in Hollywood.

5: Taylor Swift wore an Oscar de la Renta gown to the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights 2012 gala on Dec. 3 in New York City.

6: Socialite **Lady Victoria Hervey** attended a private dinner celebrating Remo Ruffini and Moncler's 60th Anniversary during Art Basel Miami Beach on Friday in Florida.



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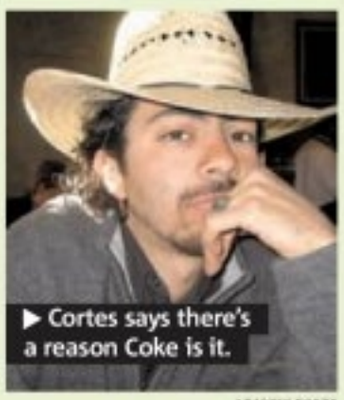


▶ Cortes says there's a reason Coke is it.

AKASHIC BOOKS

The forbidden virtues of the coca leaf

Ricardo Cortes has made a name for himself with controversial books. In 2005, he published a children's book called "It's Just a Plant," which set out to be the "Heather has Two Mommies" for pot-smoking parents. Last year, he helped make Adam Mansbach's children's book parody "Go the F— to Sleep" a best-seller with his t subversive illustrations of children refusing to go to sleep.

Cortes' latest, "A Secret History of Coffee, Coca & Cola," uses a combination of gritty, mural-like illustrations and painstaking investigative research to explore the relationship between three of the most famous stimulants of all time: coffee, coca leaves (from which cocaine is an alkaloid derivative) and Coca-Cola.

In setting out to make the argument that drug laws should relax around coca leaves (chewed worldwide as a mild stimulant), Cortes begins with the history of coffee. He says the drink many of us enjoy daily was widely prohibited for centuries. Cortes argues that coca plants were harmlessly enjoyed until becoming a casualty of the war on drugs — specifically cocaine — that began with the 1930 appointment of U.S. drug czar Harry J. Anslinger.

According to Cortes, Anslinger spent most of his 40-year career leading the prohibition of coca while simultaneously helping the Coca-Cola Company secure exclusive access to it. In exchange, Anslinger received political gain from the powerful support of the company. "He was giving a back-door to Coca-Cola for their product," says Cortes.

The most fascinating illustrations in "Secret History" are of letters between Ans-linger and Coca-Cola — rendered by Cortes from public documents. They chronicle how Coca-Cola has maintained access to coca for use in its secret formula even as the U.S. wages war against the very same plants in South America.

"It's an investigation of rumors," says Cortes. "You can find information of Coca-Cola and coca leaf on Wikipedia. But I wanted to have all the primary sources that you could look back at."

Rather than condemn Coca-Cola for using coca, Cortes believes that drug laws should relax around the leaf, citing thousands of years of "social, spiritual, medicinal and nutritional" purposes.

JONATHAN DONALDSON

Parton doesn't give advice

Instead, the superstar uses new book 'Dream More' to share wisdom earned over nearly six decades as a musician, actress and philanthropist

If there's an expert in dreaming big and achieving your heart's greatest desires, it's Dolly Parton. Growing up the fourth of 12 children to a poor tobacco farmer in Tennessee, Parton realized her biggest dream — singing on the Grand Ole Opry stage — at the age of 13. Now 66 and a certified country music icon, Parton is sharing her philosophy for success in her new book "Dream More."

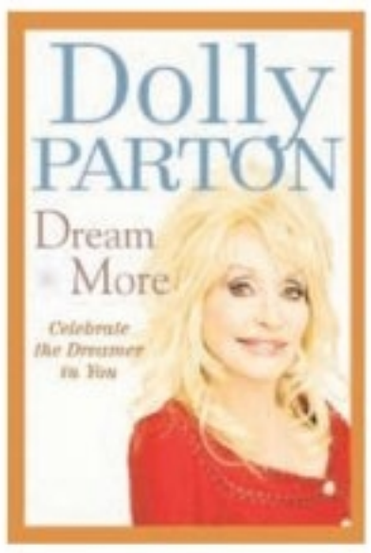
"People are always asking me for advice and asking me how to do this, how to do that. I don't give advice. I like to give information and just try to help," Parton says. With that approach, writing her experiences to share in the book "just rolled out," she says.

"Dream More" is based on the wisdom the singer delivered in a 2009 commencement speech at the University of Tennessee. A sweet, concise little book of inspiration, it is broken into four chapters that define the principles Parton lives by: dream more, learn more, care more and be more.

"You have to come up with little slogans ... and I just thought those were beautiful words," Parton says of her preparation to deliver a message of hope to graduates. It was only when she began to expand on those "slogans" for the book that she realized "what all those things really meant for me," she says. "That's really who I am and how I've lived my life."

COURTESY OF THE DOLLYWOOD FOUNDATION

▶ All proceeds from "Dream More" go to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a program that mails free books to children to encourage a love of reading. For more information on the book and the organization, visit www.imaginationlibrary.com. And check out our extended interview with Parton on the Metro Monthly Music podcast, downloadable at www.metro.us/mixtape.



AMBER RAY
amber.ray@metro.us

Quoted

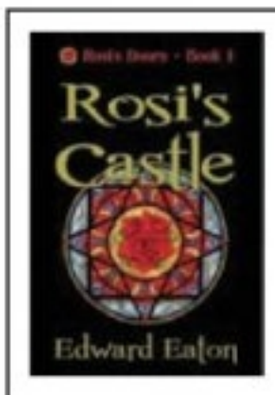
"People are always asking me for advice and asking me how to do this, how to do that. I don't give advice. I like to give information and just try to help."

PARTON

The power of positive thinking

Despite her hardscrabble background, Dolly Parton's bubbly, oversized personality bursts with warmth and positivity. The power of a good attitude is a message she shares in "Dream More."

"I've always hoped for things to be good, but I've also learned the best way to make things good is to make things good," she says. "If things are really falling apart, don't just fall into that — try to mend it, try to fix it, try to move forward. I still have a lot of hard times myself — when people say, 'Oh, you just seem to be so happy all the time,' I say, 'That's bull-talk' — but I honestly do try to fix things that are wrong."



Rosi's Doors
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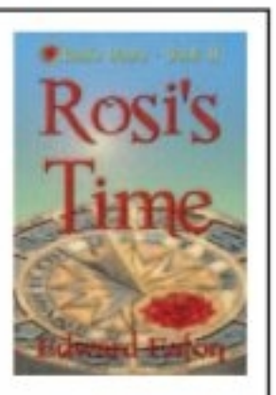
When Rosi Carol moves to The Castle, she learns that It is haunted – By Her!



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Bruno Mars gets 'Unorthodox'

He may have had success with 'The Lazy Song,' but when the singer got off tour, his 'nothing at all' approach to his new album was not by choice

Bruno Mars is wearing a mostly unbuttoned shirt and speaking slowly while stirring milk into a cup of coffee and settling into a huge, brown leather couch.

Relaxed, cool and confident — that's how he appears talking about his new album, "Unorthodox Jukebox." And he probably is, at least today. But that's not how the 27-year-old singer felt when he started on the album, the successor to his hugely successful debut "Doo-Wops & Hooligans" from 2010.

"I went through writer's block — two months of being uninspired. It was just weeks and weeks of going back into the studio and trying to write something that means something. ... I was afraid I'd never be able to write anything ever again," says the singer.

Mars says he thinks that it was the many months that he spent touring "Doo-Wops," that made it difficult to get back into songwriting mode.

"You have such a repetitive life on tour, traveling and singing the same songs over and over again," he says.

"It's hard to be creative when you've got personal problems with your family or something like that," he says, before seeming to realize he has revealed something more private than what he wanted to share.

But he will open up about the "Unorthodox Jukebox" title.

"The way I write music and all the music that I enjoy is what makes me unorthodox. To the suits, that's a bad thing, because they have to think about marketing and what radio station will play this song and who will listen to it. ... I never understood [that]. ... If it's good music, maybe I can get them all! So, I guess 'Unorthodox Jukebox' is my statement of freedom."

JAMES MOONEY

▶ Bruno Mars says he doesn't know why his writer's block ended. "Suddenly, for some reason, it started flowing again," he says.

Quoted

"I went through writer's block — two months of being uninspired. ... I was afraid I'd never be able to write anything ever again." MARS

Q&A: Bruno's other jukebox

If we were in a bar ...
I'd say, 'What's up, toots?'
... and I gave you a dollar for the jukebox, what three songs would you play?
Right now? The way I'm feeling right now? We're in a bar. ... Is it nighttime?
Yes. ... It's around 10 p.m. and we've had three beers.
I'd play Zeppelin, "Whole Lotta Love" to start the s— off. And then I would play "I'm Too Sexy" by Right Said Fred. Why not? We've had three beers and I'm hitting on you. I'm gonna dance, too. And the third one ... to really freak and weird the people out is Celine Dion, "My Heart Will Go On." Just to really bum out the whole bar. But I'd sing along.
These are all really old ...
You're asking me, right? I like old songs. And for some reason, I see you and me at the bar feeling kind of sexy.

NINA ETTRUP
METRO WORLD NEWS

TV watch list

'The Voice'

REALITY. The stage becomes half as crowded as it was yesterday when the four remaining contestants find out which two singers are heading to the finale. **8 p.m., NBC**

'Happy Endings'

COMEDY. The Kerkovich family celebrates 20 years in the mattress biz, while fans celebrate getting to meet the parents (guest stars Christopher McDonald and Julie Hagerty) and learn why Alex and Jane turned out the way they did. **9 p.m., ABC**

'Parenthood'

DRAMA. While Crosby and Jasmine celebrate their first Christmas together as a family, the holiday brings a health scare to Kristina as she continues to battle breast cancer. **10 p.m., NBC**

AMBER RAY

▶ From left: Cassadee Pope, Terry McDermott, Nicholas David and Trevin Hunte are the final four on "The Voice."

TRAE PATTON/NBC

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‘Rudolph the Red Necked Reindeer,’ you’ll go down, maybe even in history

MICHAEL VON REDLICH

▶ Tim Lawton, left, and Jesse James Wood lap it up in “Rudolph the Red Necked Reindeer.”

Grown-ups of all ages have a chance to revisit that feeling of being a kid at Christmastime with Ryan Landry and the Gold Dust Orphans’ latest, “Rudolph the Red Necked Reindeer.”

Not to be confused with the “Rudolph” that kids have been enjoying since the 1960s, this redneck goes places *that* little reindeer and his gang don’t even know exist.

In Landry’s smartly written parody, the narrator is Sharon the (transgendered) Snowperson (Keith Orr) and Herbie (Olive Another) sings gleefully “All I Want to Be Is a Proctologist.” Instead of the Island of Misfit Toys, these lovably broken outsiders end up on the Island of Dangerous Toys with a polka-dotted elephant, [expletive]-in-the-box and self-mutilating doll.

Santa (Tim Lawton) is a stoner and the Mrs. (Penny Champayne) could easily star in a “Real Housewives” franchise in Boca. Rudolph (Jesse James Wood) is a handsome buck with a red neck and a Southern accent, while the lovable Clarice (Grace Carney) has an interesting backstory that’s made clear courtesy of Robyn Bank’s brilliant cameo.

If you go

‘Rudolph the Red Necked Reindeer’
Through Dec. 23
Club Machine
1254 Boylston St., Boston
$35-$45
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/291882

Orphan mainstay Liza Lott, known for her recurring portrayal of Liza Minelli, dons a wig of a different color for her outrageously funny portrayal of Drew Barrymore. Let’s hope to see it again in future productions. Ditto for Orr, who — as a last-minute replacement — couldn’t have been better.

Like any great Landry production, “Rudolph” is full of singing, dancing and too many visuals to name (though the squirrel hunt and hot tub scene are especially memorable). Genders are mixed and lines are (thankfully) crossed as Rudolph & Co. try to escape the grips of the Abominable Icicle Snow Monster Lady.

NICK DUSSAULT
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Great gifting expectations and how to manage them

Avoid sensory overload for your children during the holidays by managing their expectations and giving a few meaningful gifts, rather than a mountain of presents Author Denise Schipani is here to help you

Your children may have wish lists a mile long, but Denise Schipani, author of "Mean Moms Rule: Why Doing the Hard Stuff Now Creates Good Kids Later," says that when it comes to gifts, more stuff under the Christmas tree isn't necessarily more satisfying.

"The holidays can be sensory overload for adults. It can be that way for your child, too," she says.

Feeling overwhelmed at your children's overwhelming holiday demands? It's up to you to manage their expectations; they can't temper themselves in the throes of the holidays.

"My kids still believe in Santa Claus, and they make their lists," she says. But Schipani makes sure her kids understand these are wish lists and not just a rundown of what they'll get. Choosing one thing from the list allows you to surprise your child, she says. "There's a way for them to feel excited about getting stuff without getting greedy about it."

You won't be a Grinch if your child doesn't get everything they desire — not everybody gets everything they want. And when your kids ask for something that's too extravagant, Schipani points to a chapter in her book titled: "Say 'No.' Smile. Don't Apologize. Repeat as Necessary."

"It's not damaging to say 'no,'" she reminds.

On the big day, tune in to your kid's experience and how he or she is reacting to unwrapping the gifts. If there's a tantrum or you see your child's eyes glaze over, take note.

"The reason they're doing that might well be that you've overwhelmed them," she says.

And it's equally important to notice when you see your child stop and really engage with a toy. It means you've given your child something he or she really enjoys — a gift that's probably sufficient on its own.

Finally, remember to set a good example for your kids and take opportunities throughout the year to remind them of the great things they already have. Avoid cultivating a "more is better" attitude, she notes. "Model the behavior that you want to see."

Quoted

"The holidays can be sensory overload for adults. It can be that way for your child, too."

DENISE SCHIPANI, AUTHOR OF 'MEAN MOMS RULE: WHY DOING THE HARD STUFF NOW CREATES GOOD KIDS LATER'

MARY SHELL
letters@metro.us

When you can't control the grandparents

"There are relatives that are not going to listen, no matter what," Schipani says. But try having a conversation with family members before the holidays. Tell them to consider whether gifts are age-appropriate or whether a combination of quality time and a meaningful gift might be better for your child than an iPod or Xbox.

DIGITAL VISION

▶ When it comes to gifts and your children, more stuff under the Christmas tree isn't necessarily more satisfying.

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Letters

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The universal blind spot: Bicyclists

RE: "BOSTON UNIVERSITY STUDENT STRUCK BY SEMI, KILLED IN ALLSTON CYCLING ACCIDENT" (METRO, DEC. 7-9) As the sibling of a cyclist who was struck by a car and was blamed for the accident, I have many things to say about cycling in the city. What people need to realize is that it's not the cyclists or the roads that are the problem. It is simply the ignorance of drivers.

In the weekend article about student killed in a cycling accident, it says, "We've seen a lot of issues ... with large vehicles and trucks that definitely have challenges on urban streets that are pedestrian- and cycle-heavy."

What bothers me about this is that drivers never get blamed fully. Drivers need to open their eyes and LOOK — for cars, pedestrians, cyclists, etc. **LIZ PAPI, VIA E-MAIL**

The best holiday movie? 'Miracle on Capitol Hill'

Dear Santa: This Christmas I want for my elected representatives in Washington to stop their partisan antics and start problem-solving around that "fiscal cliff" issue that we have. I promise that I have been a good citizen all this past year, so getting this gift by year's end sure would be great. I know how efficiently and collaboratively you and your elves run the North Pole. Maybe we could get Congress to use a few of your tried-and-true strategies. For example, think about how all of you sit down together with honorable intentions, truly listen to each others' ideas and then turn the best of those ideas into a sound plan for delivering all the Christmas toys to all the children across America. Thanks for everything, Santa.

CHIARA NUZZO, VIA E-MAIL

It's not just rich folks who find ways to make ends meet

RE: "THE BEST THINGS TAX RETURNS CAN BUY" (METRO, DEC. 10) Letter writer Christiane Geisler writes: "I am not jealous. I just love my parents and my children as much as rich folks do." Christiane, if you have to make that point you are jealous. "Rich folks" are not the only people who can afford to fly or to help financially with relatives in crisis. As a nonrich person, I have been on the receiving end of financial assistance from other nonrich relatives more times than I can count. I understand it must be hard having family that lives abroad and all over the U.S., but love is not measured in the cost of airline tickets. This is an obvious point, but you seem to resent those who can afford to do more than you can. **KEVIN METZ, VIA E-MAIL**

Make the effort to save the planet

RE: "SANDY REPAIRS TO COST BILLIONS, CONGRESS TOLD" (METRO, DEC. 7-9) More severe weather is a reminder that we have opportunities now to diminish the effects of climate change. We'll avoid some misery and save a bundle in the future if we invest in renewable energy and become energy efficient. As Jimmy Cliff sings, "You can get it if you really want. But you must try, try and try."

PAUL EMILE ANDERS, VIA E-MAIL

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Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** It's important for you to establish your own agenda instead of letting associates pick one. You'll know better what is best for you.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** If you're smart enough to recognize it, some information you possess could give you an edge in a competitive career development. Nothing will happen unless you make a move.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Get out and mingle, because social gatherings should prove to be enjoyable, provided the group is small and the topics aren't of a serious nature.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Certain goals can be much easier to attain if you first visualize successfully achieving them and the ways you go about doing so. Use your imagination.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Because your words are likely to carry more weight, listeners will prick up their ears. Be careful you don't reveal anything unintended.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Chances are you'll be more adept than usual at gauging the course of events. Use this gift to anticipate changes that may not be evident to others.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Before signing any type of agreement, you should scrutinize the fine print. Chances are it'll be the little details that turn out to be of real significance, and they could make trouble.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** If you are on your toes and smarter than competitors, you'll fare quite well — especially when it comes to commercial involvements. Try to anticipate others' moves.

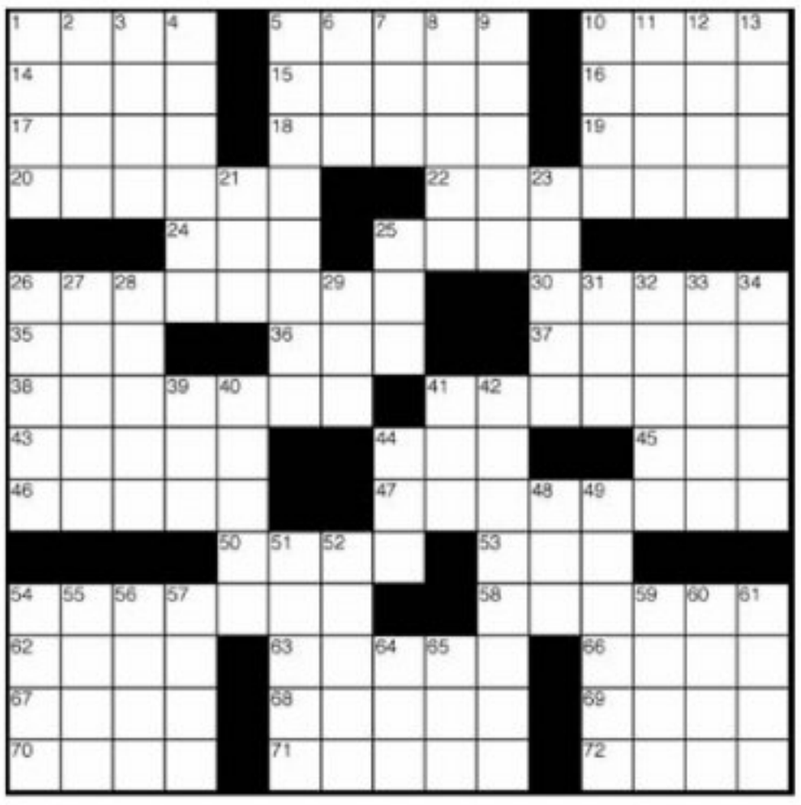
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** It behooves you to be an attentive listener when engaged in a conversation with someone who is young at heart. Tips from this person could brighten your life considerably.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** When there is something important you need to accomplish today, there's no need to broadcast it to the entire world. If you want to moan and groan about it, do so only after you've done the job.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** If you feel you have some good ideas that could benefit co-workers, try to do something about it, even if those who work at your side aren't too supportive. Even setting a good example could help.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Even if you think in small monetary terms, that's OK, because modest profits could quickly add up to a tidy sum. A good attitude could help you find bargains that others overlook.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL



Across
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5 Strongly advised
10 France, long ago
14 Type of lock
15 Reunion attendee
16 All, in combos
17 Lighter- — -air
18 Beauty shop
19 Eight bits
20 Drum up business
22 What spies do
24 Ham on —
25 Mineral finds
26 Kept late hours (2 wds.)
30 — -bopper
35 Levin or Gershwin
36 Codgers' queries
37 Dome home
38 Great numbers
41 Husky
43 Give a leg up
44 Back again
45 Vintage auto
46 Declare invalid
47 Surpass
50 Aspirin target
53 Barely visible
54 Gander (hyph.)
58 Trace element in salt
62 Dashiell's peer
63 Loon, for one
66 Pesky bug
67 Vogue rival
68 "Someone Like You" singer
69 Ms. Bombeck
70 Clancy's Jack —
71 Unbending
72 Projection room unit

Down
1 Bullfinch topic
2 Molokai neighbor
3 Lesage hero Gil —
4 Guard
5 Lying fallow
6 Estuary
7 Toothpaste choice
8 Pierre's school
9 Overalls material
10 Desert of Asia
11 Tan and Grant
12 A law — itself
13 Debt securer
21 Caustic
23 In a ferment
25 JAMA readers
26 Lion, to Tarzan
27 Shop for clothes (2 wds.)
28 Burr or Spelling
29 Cousins of "um"
31 Kind of trip
32 Jovian moon
33 Makes mention of
34 Vacillates (hyph.)
39 Ames inst.
40 Globe substitute
41 Play about Capote
42 Like many stolen cars (hyph.)
44 Ally opposite
48 Mgmt. biggie
49 Account book
51 It repels moths
52 Fictional orphan
54 Ogle
55 Air France hub
56 Clay pot
57 Piercing
59 As to (2 wds.)
60 Specify
61 Term paper abbr. (2 wds.)
64 Really relax, slangily
65 Wallach or Lilly

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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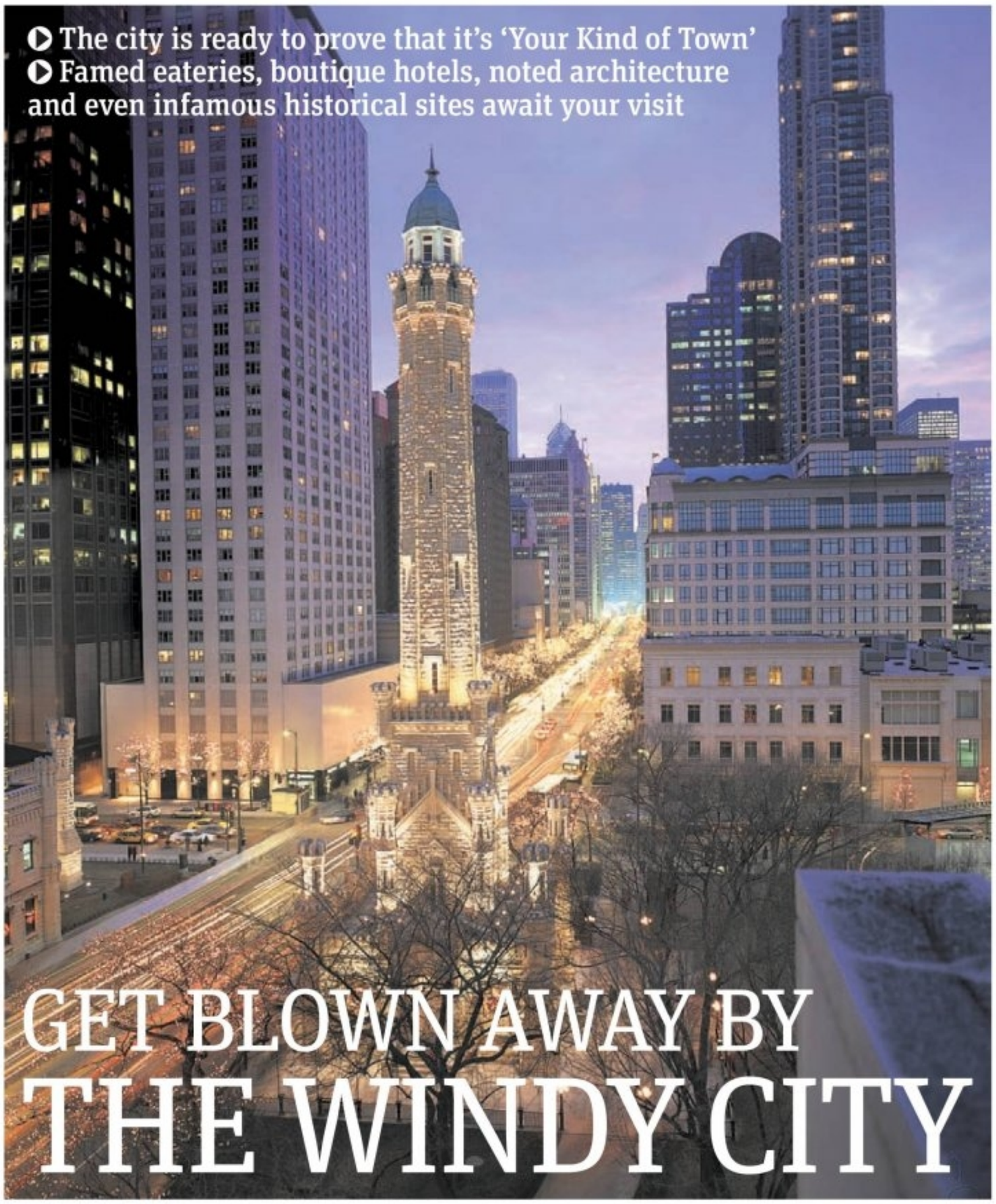

With Barack Obama back in the White House and Abraham Lincoln in movie theaters, we thought it was time to immerse ourselves in Chicago — a place with historic ties to both presidents. We hit the north side of the city — specifically Lincoln Park, Bucktown and Wicker Park — to give you this insider's guide.

Presidential digs

Stepping into the **Hotel Lincoln (www.jdvhotels.com)** is like walking onto the set of a Wes Anderson movie. The Midwest meets New England with golden yellows, forest-y greens and a sense of quaint nostalgia reminiscent of the director's "Moonrise Kingdom."

A number of the rooms feature curtains that open like the flaps of a tent, and patterned carpeting guides you through the hallways and suites. While it underwent extensive renovations before being opened by hotel operator Joie de Vivre early in 2012, the 12-story building still retains its historic edge. On the rooftop, an all-season bar offers sweeping views of Lake Michigan, North Avenue Beach and downtown Chicago. Off the lobby is **Perennial Virant (www.perennialchicago.com)**, offering a seasonal menu and featuring pickled and canned ingredients purchased from local growers.

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Historical hot spots

Prohibition
To get in touch with the city's more infamous history, walk a short distance from Hotel Lincoln to 2122 North Clark St., which was the site of the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre. It was at this address in 1929 that, at the height of prohibition, Al Capone's south Chicago gang murdered seven rival mob associates.

Architecture
Located at the southern end of Lincoln Park are the mansions and stately homes of the Gold Coast — an area the rich built in the decades after the 1871 Chicago Fire. The Chicago History Museum offers an all-weather walking tour of the **Gold Coast (www.chicagohs.org)**. Be sure to visit the Charnley-Persky House on North Astor Street, which was designed by Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright.

Lincoln Park

Across the street from Hotel Lincoln is Lincoln Park, a 1,200-acre retreat from the city nestled on the edge of Lake Michigan. Locals stroll and jog through the miles of trails in this urban getaway. Near the park center is **Lincoln Park Zoo (www.lpzoo.org)**, a free facility featuring a menagerie of creatures, from sea lions to land lions. The animals are like an extended family for locals, who can

A newborn African ape

stroll through at any time and watch as the babies — including two recently born gorillas — grow up.

Bucktown and Winter Park

Located west of Lincoln Park, both Bucktown and Winter Park have seen a resurgence in recent years as established residents and young families mix with students and hipsters. Before you start exploring, grab lunch at **Big Star (www.bigstarchicago.com)** — a whiskey and taco eatery just past the Damen "L" transit station.

Across the street from Big Star is **The Violet Hour (www.theviolethour.com)**. The lounge has a nearly hidden entrance and a speakeasy feel. A house rule helps to achieve this — cell phones are left at the door!

End your day by grabbing dinner at **The Bristol (www.thebristolchicago.com)**, an award-winning Bucktown restaurant. GQ recently named the eatery one of the 10 best new restaurants in America, and with its extensive wine list and seasonal-based creations, it's easily worthy of the title.

▶ The Bristol, the award-winning Bucktown restaurant.

DEAN LISK
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advice

Survive winter travel delays

Just crossing your fingers won't help an inevitable flight delay or cancellation due to nasty weather
Here are five ways a savvy traveler can circumvent the trip-interrupting wrath of Mother Nature

Bigger planes are more likely to fly: When the airlines have to cut flights to account for weather delays, it will be the smaller planes on shorter flights which are cut first. If you have a choice, take the bigger plane.

Early flights are on time more often: Delays build throughout the day. Crews running just an hour late may ultimately not be able to operate their last scheduled flight of the day because of regulations regarding the number of hours they can work. Flying earlier in the morning can help avoid those problems, but it may mean an early wake-up call.

Partner airlines might help you get where you're going: Planes are more full than ever these days — meaning once a flight is canceled, getting a seat on the next one will be incredibly difficult. Some airlines are more willing than others to work with other carriers to help get passengers to their final destination. Here's a quick look at some of their policies: Virgin America, Spirit and Southwest will almost never involve other airlines. JetBlue will occasionally work with American Airlines. The legacy carriers are most easily able to get other airlines involved. This doesn't mean that they will — not if weather is the cause of the delay — but that's generally the best chance customers have.

GETTY IMAGES

Don't let this be you.

Some airports are on time more often

More runways means more likelihood of on-time operations. In the New York City area, for example, JFK is more likely to be close to on-time than LaGuardia or Newark, not that any of the three have great on-time ratings overall. And if you are forced to take a connection, look at the chances of weather impacting the connecting airport. Flying through Chicago in the winter is more likely to see a snowstorm impact your flight than connecting in Dallas or Houston.

Consider the club

Getting an airline club membership is often an expensive proposition. But when operations go pear-shaped having easier access to agents at the airport might make the difference between getting on the go and being stuck in the terminal. A number of credit cards include access to lounges in some form or another and, failing that, most U.S. airlines will sell a one-time access option for around $50. Just getting out of the mass of people in the terminal might make that worthwhile.

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7-Day Caribbean $694* pp (Ocean View $844*, Balcony $894*)
7-Day Bermuda $694* pp (Ocean View $844*, Balcony $1144*)
10-Day Europe $1289* pp (Ocean View $1439*, Balcony $2449*)

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Made for maneuvers

Sox staying true to themselves with spending ◗ In position to get better in both short- and long-term

If you think that after signing free agents David Ross, Jonny Gomes, Mike Napoli and Shane Victorino the Red Sox are all done in making moves this offseason, you better think again. These signings could actually be minor in comparison to what is to come.

The Red Sox have stuck with their "disciplined" approach and not signed any player to a long-term, large-sum contract, which was what got the team in trouble the past few years.

As it stands right now, Boston has roughly $40 million to spend on 2013 player salaries before reaching the luxury tax mark as it currently stand around $135 million. This leaves the Red Sox in a position where no player should be off-limits while sticking to their disciplined philosophy.

Although much of the lineup is set, the team could still use another top-of-the-line starting pitcher, a few utility infielders, as well as potentially a shortstop depending on how the organization sees Jose Iglesias in their future plans.

40 The Red Sox have roughly $40 million to spend on 2013 salary before reaching Major League Baseball's luxury tax mark.

Besides adding these pieces through free agency, the team is also in a position to make a trade.

There are currently four catchers on the roster in Napoli (although he will primarily play first base), Ross, Jarrod Saltalamachhia and Ryan Lavarnway. Catching is a hot commodity this offseason and the Red Sox have a surplus, so it would be assumed a number of calls should be coming Boston's way.

With the signing of free agent right-handed reliever Koji Uehara, the bullpen may also be an area the organization looks to for trade chips.

There are three lefties in Franklin Morales, Andrew Miller and Craig Breslow. Teams are always looking for lefties for their bullpen, so one of these three could be a valuable piece to any deal.

There are also relievers Alfredo Aceves, Andrew Bailey, Mark Melancon, Daniel Bard and Junichi Tazawa who could also be included in a deal to give a team bullpen help. Some of these names possess great value, especially Tazawa who is coming off an outstanding last two months of 2012.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Red Sox were reportedly interested in swinging a deal for pitcher Cliff Lee last week.

Boston needs to fill a few holes in its roster before next season, but luckily for them they are in an ideal position to do so through whichever avenue they prefer — a free agent signing or a trade.

Who would have ever thought this would be possible in the middle of last season?

RYAN HANNABLE
sports@metro.us

Metro's NBA power rankings | by Jimmy Toscano

1 THUNDER (17-4)
Simply put, no team is playing better basketball right now than Oklahoma City Thunder. Winners of eight in a row, Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook continue to find ways to coexist. Pay attention, world.

GETTY IMAGES

2 SPURS (17-4)
One reason the Spurs continue to win? Depth. No player on averages more than 31.9 minutes per game. The Lakers have four guys over 34.8 mpg.

3 KNICKS (15-5)
Message. Sent. The Knicks beat the Heat by 20 points, again. Crazy right? What's crazier is that they did it without Carmelo Anthony. Right now, they're the top team in the East.

4 GRIZZLIES (14-4)
The Grizzlies ran into the red-hot Hawks on Saturday — you try telling Zach Randolph that his team has dropped out of the top five.

5 HEAT (13-5)
Five seems too low for the defending champs, but don't think for a second that Miami won't be huge players in the postseason.

6 CLIPPERS (14-6)
The Clippers signed Jamal Crawford for one reason: to score off the bench. Through 20 games (zero starts), Crawford is averaging 17.9 ppg. That's 15.2 points more than Lamar Odom.

7 HAWKS (12-5)
A random two-point loss to the Cavs just prevented the Hawks from a 10-game winning streak. Lou Williams has been a great addition.

8 WARRIORS (13-7)
The Warriors started their seven-game road trip with three wins including one over the Nets. David Lee remains underrated.

9 NETS (11-8)
Trouble in Brooklyn — and it has nothing to do with your favorite indie rock band. The Nets are on a four-game losing streak. After all, winning can be so pedestrian.

10 BULLS (11-8)
The Bulls are struggling to find offense without their MVP point guard but they still rank No. 2 in the NBA in points allowed (91.3).

3

In the news

Say, uncle
Kevin Youkilis' uncle, Edward Youkilis, claims that his nephew loves New York, according to ESPN.

"Even when he was with the Red Sox, he always said he would love to play here someday," said Edward, who owns a popular Tribeca bistro. "He said it would be an experience like no other."

The former Red Sox fan favorite is currently mulling a one-year, $12 million offer from the Yankees.

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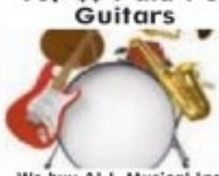

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